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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 05118.0007U4
Serial No. 08/961,443IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEIn re Application of
Townes, Tim M. et al.

Serial No. 08/961,443

Filed: October 10, 1997

For: TRANSGENIC ANIMALS THAT
PRODUCE HEMOGLOBIN

Group Art Unit: 1632

Examiner: Jill Martin

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132THE TOWNES DECLARATION 2BOX FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.
Suite 1200, The Candler Building
127 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1811

April 10, 2002

Sir:

1. I, Tim Townes, a citizen of the United States, residing at 4687 Bridgewater Rd, Birmingham, Al 35243, declare that:

2. I have a Ph.D. degree in Microbiology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. I have been conducting research in the field of Molecular Genetics since 1982 and am a co-author of at least 50 publications relating to hemoglobin and hemoglobin transgenesis. I am currently Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

3. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter in United States Patent Application No. 08/961,443.

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4. I have reviewed the Office Action dated December 10, 2001, as well as the following publications:

- a. Mullins and Mullins, "Perspective Series: Molecular Medicine in Genetically Engineered Animals Transgenesis in the Rat and Larger Mammals," *J. Clin. Invest.*, 98(11) S37-S40 (1996) ("Mullins")
- b. Wall et al., "Transgenic Livestock: Progress and Prospects for the Future," *Theriogenology* 45:57-68 (1996) ("Wall")
- c. Kappel et al., "Regulating Gene Expression in Transgenic Animals," *Current Opinions In Biotechnology*, 3:548-553 (1992) ("Kappel")
- d. Strojek and Wagner, "The Use of Transgenic Animal Techniques for Livestock Improvement," *Genetic Engineering: Principles and Methods*, 10:221-246 Plenum Press, (1988) ("Strojek")
- e. Grosveld F. et al., "Position-independent, high level expression of the human beta-globin gene in transgenic mice," *Cell* 51:975-985 (1987) ("Grosveld")
- f. Paszty et al., "Lethal α -thalassaemia created by gene targeting in mice and its genetic rescue," *Nat Genet.*, 11(1):33-9 (1995) ("Paszty")
- g. Ciavatta et al. "Mouse model of human β^0 thalassemia: Targeted deletion of the mouse β^{maj} - and β^{min} -globin genes in embryonic stem cells," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 92:9259-9263 (1995) ("Ciavatta")
- h. Rubin et al., Hypoxia-induced in Vivo Sickling of Transgenic Mouse Red Cells," *J. Clin. Invest.*, 87:639-47 (1991) ("Rubin")
- i. Fabry et al. "A Second Generation Transgenic Mouse Model Expressing Both Hemoglobin S (HbS) and HbS-Antilles Results in Increased Phenotypic Severity," *Blood*, 86:2419-28 (1995)

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5. After reviewing the Office Action dated December 10, 2001, I understand that the examiner believes that 1) hemoglobin transgene expression is not predictable in mammals other than mice, and 2) switching constructs are required for all hemoglobin transgenes.

6. The Beta Globin Locus Control Region (LCR) sequences provide high level, position independent expression. As referenced in Mullins and Mullins above, LCRs have been used to express transgenes at high levels in species other than mice. In particular, the Beta Globin LCR has been used to produce high levels of human alpha and beta globin in transgenic pigs (See Swanson et al., and Sharma et al., Appendix A and B)).

7. Hemoglobin is an intracellular protein which functions in oxygen delivery. Levels of hemoglobin that vary from 10 to 14 grams per deciliter are consistent with relatively normal physiology and levels as low as 7 grams per deciliter can sustain life. Therefore, relatively wide variations of hemoglobin concentration can be tolerated in mammals. On the other hand, wide variations of the concentrations of secreted proteins are not well tolerated. This is particularly true of hormones. The levels of hormones are tightly regulated in mammals because of their potency. Since small quantities of hormones can have major phenotypic effects because of their very nature, the production of animals expressing transgenic hormones is much less predictable than the production of animals expressing non-hormonal transgenic intracellular proteins. The initial publications of large animal transgenics involved the expression of hormones, and these animals were abnormal. However, large animals that express human hemoglobin are normal. For example, Swanson et al. and Sharma et al. (Appendix A) indicate that transgenic hemoglobin was expressed at physiologically acceptable levels.

8. The production of mice that survive on human hemoglobin is predictive of the survival of larger mammals. The physiology of the mouse is more different from humans than is the physiology of the cow or sheep and humans. The high metabolic rate of the mouse requires efficient oxygen delivery and the oxygen affinity of mouse and humans are significantly different. Therefore, we could not predict that the mouse would survive on human hemoglobin.

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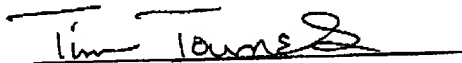
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However, the fact that mice did survive exclusively on human hemoglobin makes it more predictable that large animals would also survive solely on human hemoglobin.

9. Switching constructs are not required for all hemoglobin transgenes. We used a construct that switches from human gamma (fetal) to human beta (adult) globin during development when producing our mouse model of sickle cell disease. In this case, the production of human fetal hemoglobin is important to inhibit red cell sickling during fetal development and in new born animals. When a normal adult beta globin gene is linked to the LCR, normal adult hemoglobin is synthesized in the fetus and newborn and these animals are normal.

10. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any patent issuing therefrom.



Tim Townes, Ph.D.

04/10/02

DATE